

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENDING 02486 060857Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4655
INFO USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 0 2 4 8 6

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCUL
SUBJECT: ABORTIVE AUGUST 21 DEMONSTRATION BY LENINGRAD
ARTISTS

REF: LENINGRAD 01694

1. CONGEN RECENTLY LEARNED OF DEMONSTRATION PLANNED BY
A SMALL GROUP OF LOCAL LENINGRAD ARTISTS AND OTHERS ON
ANNIVERSARY OF SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AUGUST 21.
DEMONSTRATION WAS TO HAVE CONSISTED OF PEACEFUL GATHERING
IN PALACE SQUARE, OPPOSITE WINTER PALACE AND FORMER GENERAL
STAFF BUILDING. A STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE INVASION SIGNED
BY FIVE INDIVIDUALS HAS BEEN CIRCULATED.

2. DEMONSTRATION WAS ABORTED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES WHO
ARRESTED SEVERAL OF INTENDED PARTICIPANTS ONE DAY BEFORE
DEMONSTRATION. GROUP'S PLANS WERE APPARENTLY RELAYED TO
AUTHORITIES BY ARTIST MEMBER OF GROUP.

3. THOSE ARRESTED WERE HELD FOR 3-4 DAYS AND RELEASED.
THEY INCLUDE IGOR ZAHAROV-ROSS AND VADIM FILIMONOV.
ZAHAROV-ROSS' WIFE, ALLA, WAS ALSO DETAINED FOR A DAY,
QUESTIONED AND RELEASED. (ZAHAROV-ROSS APPLIED TO EMIGRATE
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TO ISRAEL SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.)

4. ARTISTS ARE REPORTEDLY NOW PLANNING ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION
IN MID-SEPTEMBER TO COMMEMORATE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY
OF UNOFFICIAL EXHIBIT BULLDOZED IN MOSCOW. DEMONSTRATION
IS TO TAKE PLACE AT ONE OF CITY DUMPS WHERE SEVERAL
ARTISTS WILL BURN THEIR WORK.

5. COMMENT: LOCAL UNOFFICIAL ARTISTS ARE INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED BY LACK OF LOCAL PUBLIC EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES. ONE ARTIST WAS TOLD RECENTLY BY OFFICIAL OF CITY CULTURAL DIRECTORATE THAT NO MORE UNOFFICIAL EXHIBITS WOULD BE GIVEN OFFICIAL SANCTION FOR THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE. ARTISTS HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY INACTIVE DURING THE SUMMER WITH EXCEPTION OF EVENT NOTED REFTTEL, BUT EVENTS NOTED ABOVE MAY SIGNAL UPSWING IN ARTISTS' POLITICAL ACTIVISM. CRUMP

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Message Attributes

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